

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 12, 2005

The Honorable David Obey
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations
Appropriations Committee
1016 Longworth Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Obey:

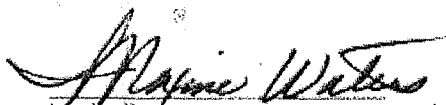
We are writing to request that you provide an appropriation of \$610 million for the Minority AIDS Initiative in the Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations bill for fiscal year 2006.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, racial and ethnic minorities represent more than 70% of new AIDS cases in the United States. African Americans account for 49% of new AIDS cases, although only 13% of the population is black. Hispanics account for 20% of new AIDS cases, although only 14% of the population is Hispanic. Asian Americans/Pacific Islanders account for 1% of new AIDS cases, and American Indians/Alaska Natives account for up to 1%. Clearly, racial and ethnic minorities shoulder a disproportionate burden of HIV and AIDS in the United States today.

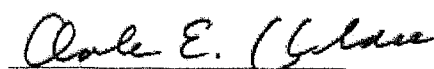
These statistics demonstrate the tremendous importance of the Minority AIDS Initiative. This critical initiative provides funds to community-based organizations, research institutions, minority-serving colleges and universities, health care organizations, state and local health departments, and correctional institutions to help them address the HIV/AIDS epidemic within the minority populations they serve. Thus, it enables organizations and providers to expand and strengthen their capacity to deliver culturally and linguistically appropriate care and services. As a result, the Initiative fills gaps in prevention, treatment, surveillance, infrastructure, outreach and education across communities of color.


We urge you to provide \$610 million for the Minority AIDS Initiative in fiscal year 2006. We thank you for your attention to our concerns, and we look forward to working with you to expand programs for the prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS in minority communities throughout the United States.

Sincerely,



Maxine Waters



Reana Ros-Lehtinen


Dale Kildee


James A. Leach

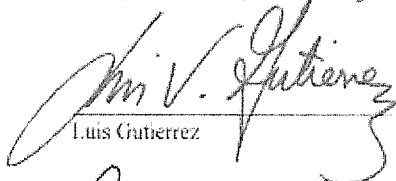
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Sander Levin

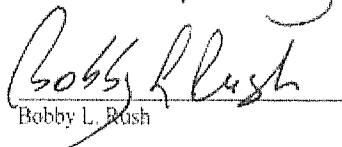

Major R. Owens


Carolyn B. Maloney

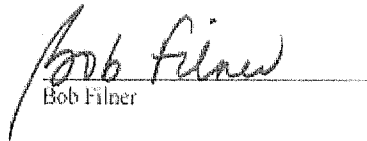

Jerrold Nadler

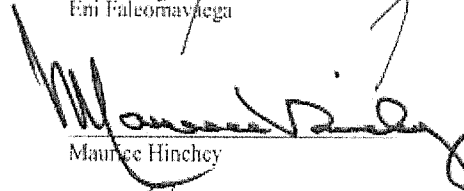

Luis Guterrez


Tom Lantos


Bobby L. Rush

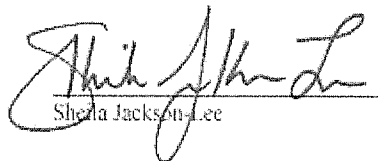

Eriq LaJeunesse


Bob Filner


Maurice Hinchey

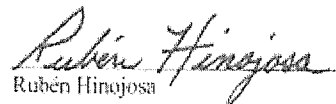

Bennie Thompson

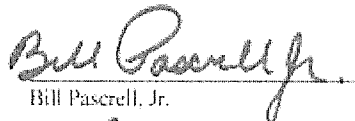

Silvestre Reyes


Sheila Jackson-Lee

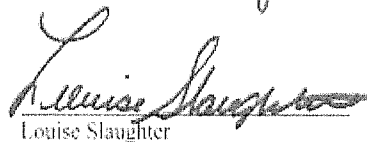

Corrine Brown

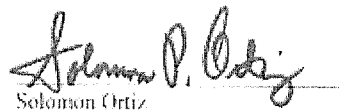

Juanita Millender-McDonald


Ruben Hinojosa


Bill Pascrell, Jr.



Norman Dicks



Louise Slaughter


Solomon P. Ortiz



John Larson


Linda Sanchez


Stephanie Tubbs Jones

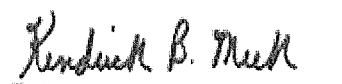

Tammy Baldwin


David Wu

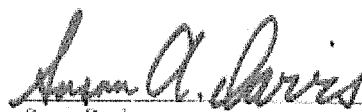

Jan Schakowsky



Betty McCollum

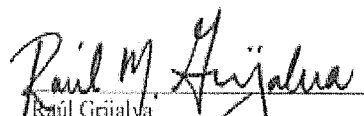

Jim McDermott


Kendrick Meek


Robert C. "Bobby" Scott


Susan Davis


Chris Van Hollen

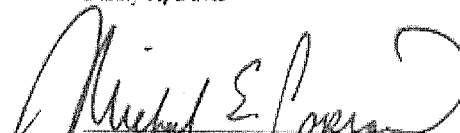

Raúl Grijalva


Neil Abercrombie


Eddie Bernice Johnson

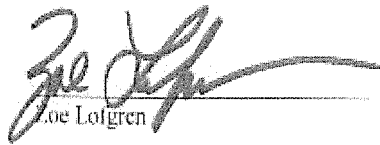

Danny K. Davis

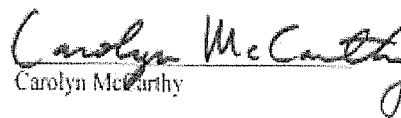

Diana DeGette


Michael Capuano

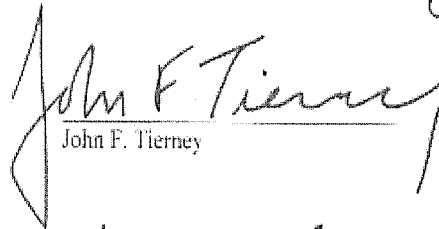

Julia Carson


Emanuel Cleaver


Joe Lolgren


Carolyn McCarthy

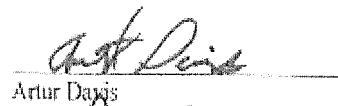

Ed Case


John F. Tierney

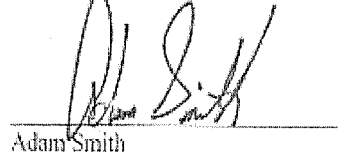

Diane Watson

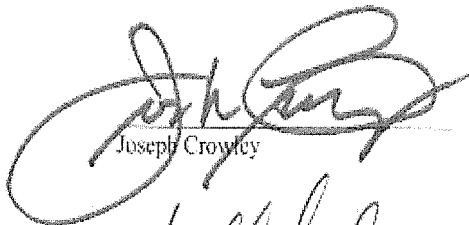

Wm. Lacy Clay

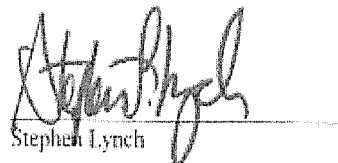

Lloyd Doggett

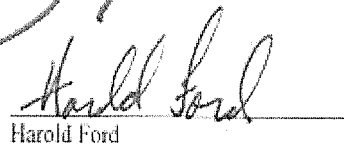

Artur Davis


Robert Wexler



Adam Smith

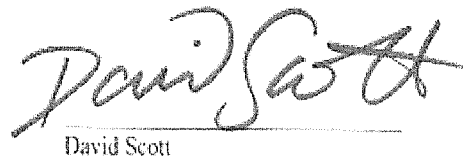

Joseph Crowley


Stephen Lynch


Harold Ford

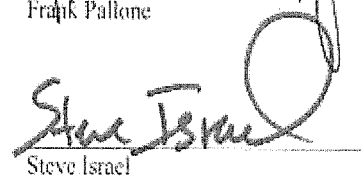

Joe Baca

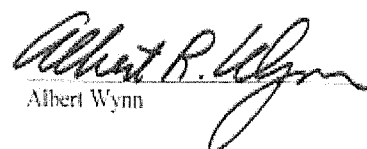

John Lewis


David Scott


Frank Pallone


James P. McGovern


Steve Israel


Albert Wynn

Hilda L. Solis

Hilda L. Solis

Mark Foley

Mark Foley

Michael Honda

Michael Honda

Donna Christensen

Donna Christensen

Madeleine Bordallo

Madeleine Bordallo

Grace S. Napolitano

Grace Napolitano

Barney Frank

Barney Frank

John Dingell

John Dingell

Charles Rangel

Charles Rangel

Jim Conyers

Jim Conyers

Xavier Becerra

Xavier Becerra

William Delahunt

William Delahunt

Al Green

Al Green

Gregory Meeks

Gregory Meeks

Barbara Lee

Barbara Lee

Dennis J. Kucinich

Dennis Kucinich

Fortney Pete Stark

Fortney Pete Stark

Adam Schiff

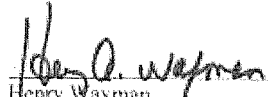
Adam Schiff


Charles Gonzalez

Charles Gonzalez

John Dingell

John Dingell



Henry Waxman


George Miller


Donald Payne


Michael McNulty



Howard Berman


Martin Meehan


Edolphus Towns

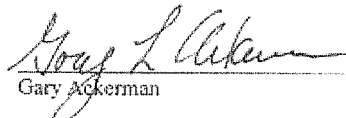

Bernard Sanders

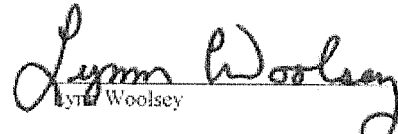

Elijah Cummings


Melvin L. Watt

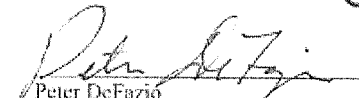

Robert Menendez


Nydia Velázquez


Gary Ackerman


Lynn Woolsey

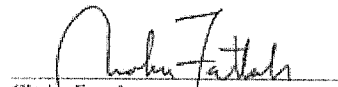

William Jefferson


Peter DeFazio



James Clyburn

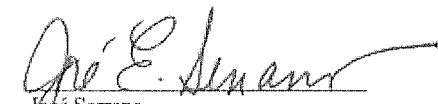

Eleanor Holmes Norton


Eliot Engel


Chaka Fattah


Jane Harman

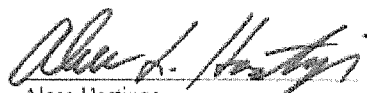

Thaddeus McCotter


José Serrano


Doris Matsui

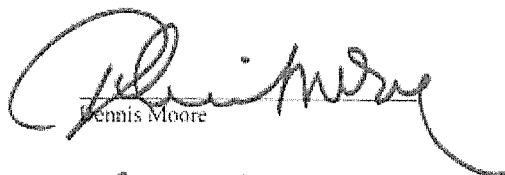

Sherrod Brown

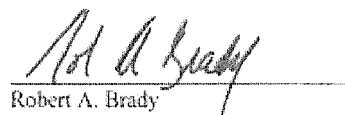

Gene Green

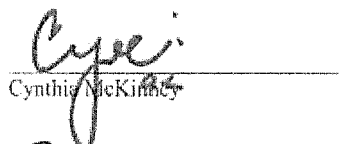

Alcee Hastings


Russ Carnahan


Thomas Allen


Dennis Moore


Robert A. Brady


Cynthia McKinney


G. K. Butterfield


Jeb Bradley